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18 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: The DCI

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. I am told by a reliable friend that Secretary of State Dean Rusk was the guest last night at a dinner with a selective group of newsmen. He answered questions, some not for attribution, others completely off the record.
3. He is quoted as having stated that, contrary to what certain Congressmen have been saying, there is an opinion held by some responsible officials in Washington that the Soviet Union has made a substantial reduction of its forces in Cuba.
4. Completely off the record, he is said to have stated that low-level reconnaissance flights seem to confirm this opinion because the U.S. planes have not been fired upon, and they have noted military installations where the Cubans are manning the equipment that formerly was manned by the Soviet.
5. Reportedly Mr. Rusk was asked regarding Mark Child's column of 14 June 1963 from Bonn, wherein Childs states an alleged conversation between a NATO minister and Rusk regarding missile gaps and bomber gaps and Rusk's statement that America has nuclear superiority now over the Russians. "If you were wrong before, how do you know that you are right this time?" "All I can say to you," Rusk replied, "is that we know."
6. Rusk reportedly was asked if this implies an intelligence breakthrough of significance. Rusk is said to have smiled as though pleased, but was enigmatic. Rusk is quoted as saying that there should not be too much difficulty in figuring out what the intelligence breakthrough has been. He reportedly said the United States is ahead of the Soviet Union in underground testing and that they have not developed smaller nuclear weapons to the same degree as has the United States, but they have developed bigger weapons.
7. Copy of Mark Childs column of 14 June 1963 as it appeared in the WASHINGTON POST is attached.

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

Attachment

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